



**Grace Episcopal Church**

**The Sundays after Epiphany**

**Morning Prayer**

**The Right Rev. Frank Logue,  
11th Bishop of the Diocese of Georgia**

Mr. Mike Taylor, Church Musician and Choir Director

**Entrance Hymn - In the cross of Christ I glory      H 441**

**Confession of Sin**

Let us confess our sin against God and our neighbor.

**Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will,  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**

Officiant—Lord, open our lips.

**People—And our mouths shall proclaim your praise.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

**Venite**

Come, let us sing to the Lord; \*  
let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.  
Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving \*  
and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.  
For the Lord is a great God, \*  
and a great King above all gods.  
In his hand are the caverns of the earth, \*  
and the heights of the hills are his also.  
The sea is his, for he made it, \*  
and his hands have molded the dry land.  
Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, \*  
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.  
For he is our God,

and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. \*  
Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

## **The Lessons**

### **Old Testament Reading**

#### **Micah 6:1-8**

Hear what the Lord says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,  
and let the hills hear your voice.

Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the Lord,  
and you enduring foundations of the earth;  
for the Lord has a controversy with his people,  
and he will contend with Israel.

“O my people, what have I done to you?

In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

For I brought you up from the land of Egypt,  
and redeemed you from the house of slavery;  
and I sent before you Moses,  
Aaron, and Miriam.

O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,  
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,  
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,  
that you may know the saving acts of the Lord.”

“With what shall I come before the Lord,  
and bow myself before God on high?

Shall I come before him with burnt-offerings,  
with calves a year old?

Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,  
with tens of thousands of rivers of oil?

Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,  
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”

He has told you, O mortal, what is good;  
and what does the Lord require of you  
but to do justice, and to love kindness,  
and to walk humbly with your God?

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **The Song of Zechariah**

**Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; \*  
he has come to his people and set them free.  
He has raised up for us a mighty savior, \*  
born of the house of his servant David.  
Through his holy prophets he promised of old,  
that he would save us from our enemies, \*  
from the hands of all who hate us.  
He promised to show mercy to our fathers \*  
and to remember his holy covenant.  
This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, \*  
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,  
Free to worship him without fear, \*  
holy and righteous in his sight  
all the days of our life.  
You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, \*  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,  
To give his people knowledge of salvation \*  
by the forgiveness of their sins.  
In the tender compassion of our God \*  
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,  
To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, \*  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.  
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

## **The Psalm (said in unison)**

**1 Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle? \*  
who may abide upon your holy hill?  
2 Whoever leads a blameless life and does what is right, \*  
who speaks the truth from his heart.  
3 There is no guile upon his tongue;  
he does no evil to his friend; \*  
he does not heap contempt upon his neighbor.  
4 In his sight the wicked is rejected, \*  
but he honors those who fear the Lord.  
5 He has sworn to do no wrong \*  
and does not take back his word.  
6 He does not give his money in hope of gain, \*  
nor does he take a bribe against the innocent.**

**7 Whoever does these things \*  
shall never be overthrown.**

### **The Epistle Reading**

#### **1 Corinthians 1:18-31**

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,  
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

#### **The Canticle—You Are God**

You are God: we praise you;  
You are the Lord; we acclaim you;  
You are the eternal Father:  
All creation worships you.  
To you all angels, all the powers of heaven,

Cherubim and Seraphim, sing in endless praise:  
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
The glorious company of apostles praise you.  
The noble fellowship of prophets praise you.  
The white-robed army of martyrs praise you.  
Throughout the world the holy Church acclaims you;  
Father, of majesty unbounded,  
your true and only Son, worthy of all worship,  
and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide.  
You, Christ, are the king of glory,  
the eternal Son of the Father.  
When you became man to set us free  
you did not shun the Virgin's womb.  
You overcame the sting of death  
and opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.  
You are seated at God's right hand in glory.  
We believe that you will come and be our judge.  
Come then, Lord, and help your people,  
bought with the price of your own blood,  
and bring us with your saints  
to glory everlasting.

**Sequence Hymn—** 'Tis the gift to be simple H 554

### **The Gospel Reading**

#### **Matthew 5:1-12**

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### **The Message**

#### **The Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

### **The Prayers**

Officiant—The Lord be with you.  
**People—And also with you.**  
Officiant—Let us pray.

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy Name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,**

but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.

### **The Suffrages**

V. Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance;

**R. Govern and uphold them, now and always.**

V. Day by day we bless you;

**R. We praise your name for ever.**

V. Lord, keep us from all sin today;

**R. Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.**

V. Lord, show us your love and mercy;

**R. For we put our trust in you.**

V. In you, Lord, is our hope;

**R. And we shall never hope in vain.**

### **The Collect of the Day**

Almighty and everlasting God, you govern all things both in heaven and on earth: Mercifully hear the supplications of your people, and in our time grant us your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

### **A Collect for Sundays**

Almighty and everlasting God, you govern all things both in heaven and on earth: Mercifully hear the supplications of your people, and in our time grant us your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### **A Prayer for Mission**

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

### **The Prayers of the People**

**With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying "Lord, have mercy."**

**For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the Holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.**

**For our Bishop, and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.**

**For our President, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.**

**For this city, for every city and community, and for those who live in them, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.**

**For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.**

**For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.**

**For those in need of our prayers, especially the members of the Vestry and Search Committee, Curtis, Tina, Rob, Una, Jeannette, Stacie, Debra, Dot, Misti, Sara, Christy, Cindy, Betty Sue, Cheryl, Diana, Wayne, Ronnie, Lois, Hannah, Jeanie, Doris, Harold, Michane, Dayton, Ruby. Larry & Elouise, Jennifer, Rob, Anna, Steve, Deb, Donna, Sandy & Mike, Henry, Winky & family, Daniel, Kelly, Carol, Frances, Barb, Lonnie, Allen, Tom, Sara, Rachel, and C.J., give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.**

**For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.**

**For deliverance from all danger, violence, and oppression, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.**

**For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection and for all the departed, especially Marta, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.**

**For those who are not able to worship with us, that they may feel connected to the Body of Christ, especially Rose, Jo, Jacque, Una, Dot and Shary, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.**

**For those celebrating birthdays this week, especially, Carol Clarke, Jo Shepard, Debra Strickland, Ann Combs, and Sheri Gillis, that they may feel our love and prayers, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.**

**We commend to your gracious care and keeping all the men and women of our armed forces at home and abroad. Defend them by day with your heavenly grace; strengthen them in their trials and temptations; give them a sense of your abiding presence wherever they may be, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.**

## **Announcements**

## **Offertory**

## **The General Thanksgiving**

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up our selves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

## **A Prayer of St. Chrysostom**

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

**Hymn—**Rejoice ye pure in heart

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